

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-14, and 16-28 are pending in this application.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 6, 9, 10, 16, 19, and 28, and has canceled claims 5, 15, and 29. These changes do not introduce any new matter.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's prompt indication that claims 2, 4, 5-8, 12, 14-18, 21, and 23-27 define allowable subject matter. As explained in more detail below, Applicant has amended the claims to place the subject application in condition for immediate allowance.

Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the subject matter specified in original claim 5. Applicant has amended independent claim 10 to include the subject matter specified in original claim 15. In light of the Examiner's indication that claims 5 and 15 define allowable subject matter, independent claims 1 and 10, as amended herein, define allowable subject matter. Applicant has canceled claims 5 and 15 in view of the changes made to independent claims 1 and 10.

Each of claims 2-4 and 6-9 depends from independent claim 1. Accordingly, claims 2-4 and 6-9 necessarily define allowable subject matter. Each of claims 11-14 and 16-28 ultimately depends from independent claim 10. Accordingly, claims 11-14 and 16-28 necessarily define allowable subject matter.

As noted above, Applicant has canceled independent claim 29. In light of the cancellation of independent claim 29 and the changes made herein to independent claims 1 and 10, Applicant submits that the rejection of claims 1, 3, 9-11, 13, 19, 20, 22, 28, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is moot.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of claims 1-4, 6-14, and 16-28, as amended herein, and submits that these claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a notice of allowance is respectfully

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requested. In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at **(408) 749-6902**. If any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. MXICP031).

Respectfully submitted,
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